Pending Cases in Karnataka High Court

3736. SHRI B. K. HARIPRASAD: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that there are more than 9 vacancies in the Karnataka High Court for the last one and half years and, if so, reasons for delay in filling the vacancies;

(b) whether it is also a fact that due to delay in filling up of the vacancies, there are more than 1.20 lakh cases pending for disposal; and

(c) whether it is also a fact that a proposal for the establishment of another bench in North Karnataka has not been favourably considered and whether this is also causing accumulation of more cases at Bangalore?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI H.R. BHARDWAJ): (a) As on 15.12.92, there were 9 vacancies of permanent/ Additional Judges in the Karnataka High Court. These vacancies arose on different dates between 2nd August, 1991 to 1st July, 1992. Appointments of High Court Judges are made on recommendations from the State authorities in terms of article 217 (1) of the Constitution of India. Recommendations for filling up 4 vacancies of Judges in the Karnataka High Court have been received on 11.12.92 from the State Constitutional authorities of Karnataka and the process of consultation for filling up all the vacancies is on.

(b) 86, 971 cases were pending in the Karnataka High Court on 30.6.91 on account of various reasons, including delay in filling up of vacancies.

(c) No complete proposal has been received from the Government of Karnataka, in consultation with the Chief Justice of the Karnataka High Court, non-establishment of a High Court Bench in North Karnataka may not contribute to accumulation of cases in the High Court.

Recruitment of Judicial Officers in Delhi

3737. SHRI SURESH PACHOURI: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Delhi High Court had conducted an examination for recruitment of Judicial Officers in October, 1991;

(b) whether it is also a fact that the number of candidates who appeared in the said examination had given representation against the result of written examination, if so, what are the details thereof and action taken thereon;

(c) whether some of the candidates who did not qualify for interview were called for interview after the representations, if so, what are the details thereof and reasons therefor; and

(d) what steps were taken to ensure that results of other candidates who did neither qualify for interview nor give any representation, were assessed rightly?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI H.R. BHARDWAJ): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) In all 9 candidates who appeared in the examination had made representations against the written examination and the answer-books of each representations/candidate were rechecked and found that all the answer recorded in their answer books were awarded marks and the totalling of the so awarded marks was correct and therefore, their representations have been rejected.

(c) and (d) After the declaration of the result of the examination, an exercise was undertaken to recheck the answer-books of all the candidates who appeared in the examination. As a result of this exercise it was noticed that as against 140 marks obtained by a

candidate in one of the papers of the award book of the examiner recorded only 40 marks. With the approval of the Full Court of the Delhi High Court this mistake was corrected and the candidate was also interviewed alongwith the 85 candidates already declared successful. All the 86 candidates have since been appointed to the Delhi Judicial Service.

Forgery of proxies at the annual general meeting of L & T

3738. SHRI VISHWASRAO RAMRAO PATIL:
DR. BAPU KALDATE:

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether it has been found by Crime Branch, Bombay Police that signatures on most of the proxy forms for Larsen and Toubro Annual General Meeting of 1991, submitted my M/s. Trishna Investments (a subsidiary of Reliance Industries) are forged;

(b) whether it is also a fact that neither the Central Government nor the State Government has intervened in the matter before Bombay Court;

(c) whether the Central Government, who is largest shareholder of Larsen and Toubro through public sector financial institution, contemplate any action in this matter; and

(d) if so, the details in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI H.R. BHARDWAJ): (a) After investigation in pursuance of orders of the Court of the Additional Chief Metropolitan Magistrate, 37th Court, Bombay, the Bombay police had reported to the Court that a number of proxies received in connection with the Extraordinary General Meeting were forged. During enquiry, the police could not conclude whether the proxy collectors, hired for the purpose, committed the forgery or such forged proxies were sent by post by others and it was not possible to pinpoint the persons who might have committed the forgery. The Court, after examining the police report and hand writing expert's opinion, dismissed the complaint against the accused persons.

(b) The Central Government and State Government were not parties to the private complaint made in the Court and as such there was no occasion to intervene.

(c) and (d) In view of the police report submitted to the Court and the Court's verdict discharging the accused and also the fact that the proxies were not put to use and there was no polling at all and that the Extra Ordinary General Meeting was dispersed on the withdrawal of the requisition for it, the Central Government is not contemplating any further action in the matter.

Seminar on Indian Judicial System

3739. SHRI VITHALRAO MADHAVRAO JADHAV: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether a seminar on Indian judicial system its difficulties, was held in Delhi in September, 1992;

(b) if so, the details of issued discussed and consensus emerged on toning up the judicial system including complete financial autonomy to the courts to facilitate quick and quality justice to all section of the society;

(c) what is the reaction of Government to the suggestions for removal from the statues, the constitutionally and socially undesirable laws that have become redundant with the passage of time; and

(d) if so, the details of action proposed in the matter?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI H.R. BHARDWAJ): (a) and (b) The Chief